

Volunteer Enrichment

August 19, 2013

Introductions

Staff Introductions Each staff member introduces themselves and their role at the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust and the *Anne Frank in the World* exhibit.

Volunteer Introductions Each volunteer introduces themselves and describes their role (greeter, docent, projects, etc.)

Introduction of the theme of this Enrichment

New Information

E-newsletter The e-newsletter is sent at least once a month to all volunteers. Hard copies for volunteers without e-mail access are available in the archive book at the front desk.

Library The procedures for the browsing, borrowing, and returning of titles in the library are reviewed. There is also a “Wish List” of titles that can be donated to the collection.

Volunteer Webpage There is a new page at www.holocaust.georgia.gov/volunteer-resources that is available with information and links specifically curated for volunteers. It can be accessed at any time.

Travelling version of exhibit “Witness to the Holocaust: WWII Veteran William Alexander Scott III” has launched and begins a tour of libraries throughout the state.

Holocaust Learning Trunk Project The Georgia Commission on the Holocaust will proceed with a third year of providing trunks to middle schools throughout the state by launching 20 new trunks.

New Initiatives

Photo Activity Volunteers form pairs and are each assigned one of three photographs. Partners analyze the content of the photograph to best answer the following questions:

- What date was this photo taken?
- Where was the photo taken?
- Who is in the photo?
- What is happening in the photo?

After 5-7 minutes, all volunteers reconvene for the “reveal” of each photo. The objective of this activity is to demonstrate that while photographs provide important visual documentation of the time period, they are only “snapshots” of a specific moment. Often, what happened before or after the photo was taken as well as details such as the identity and fate of those in the photo are not evident.

Review three portions of the exhibit's core message The answer key to the photo activity coincides photo-by-photo with the three-part goal of educational tours:

1. **Hate and discrimination are taught.** They are not inborn traits, beliefs, behaviors.
2. **They were ordinary people.** Hitler and the Nazis did not act alone. They were not solely responsible for the Holocaust. Ordinary people made choices to act or not act and became complicit, collaborators, rescuers, or resistance.
3. **They made choices.** Explore behaviors, not categories of people. Actions are fluid and thus a person's choices should be the emphasis of study, not their categorization such as "bystander" or "perpetrator", etc.

How to utilize these initiatives These initiatives originate from a February 2013 summit hosted at Emory by the United States Holocaust Memorial exhibit. The USHMM's new exhibit "Some Were Neighbors: Collaboration & Complicity in the Holocaust" is an excellent resource for these concepts.

Review of volunteer expectations The expectations are outlined in the Volunteer Agreement.

Review of official procedures As a state agency, the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust must adhere to specific regulations. All representatives of the Commission, all staff and volunteers should be aware of such regulations.